

exactly what the World Trade Organization allows for. The International Trade Commission made this recommendation.

As you know, I honored our NAFTA agreements by exempting Canada and Mexico. I also—we will honor our agreements with developing nations. This is a remedy allowed under the WTO. It also is a part of our law, and I intend to enforce our laws.

International Terrorism

Q. My question is addressed for Mr. President Bush and Mr. President Mubarak. As we know, this is your first meeting after 11 September attacks, and Egypt's experience in combating terrorism is worldwide recognized. Did you find a common stand in your talks today to combat this international phenomenon?

President Bush. We did. The President reminded me of the fact that he has been fighting terror long before I became the President. He's an old hand at fighting terror. And I assured him that we were strong allies in this effort.

There are some in the world who don't like President Mubarak because of what he stands for, a more open society. He's been a great leader of Egypt, and there are extremists who don't like him. And to the extent that we can help round up those extremists that would do harm to the President or his government or the people of Egypt, we will do so.

It doesn't matter to me where a terrorist tries to hide. We will work with our friends and allies to hunt them down, and I assured the President that my determination is as strong today as it was on September the 11th. This is an important moment in history, where nations must not flinch in the face of murder and terror and people who are willing to take innocent lives, people who hate free societies.

And I am proud of our alliance, and I appreciate his friendship, and I appreciate his steadfast resolve, as well, to rout out terror wherever it exists.

Mr. President.

President Mubarak. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 5:35 p.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher of Egypt; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. The proclamation and memorandum of March 5 regarding imports of certain steel products are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on the Decision To Impose Temporary Safeguards To Help the Domestic Steel Industry

March 5, 2002

Free trade is an important engine of economic growth and a cornerstone of my economic agenda. My administration has successfully launched new global trade talks, reignited the movement for free trade with-

in our own hemisphere, and helped bring China and Taiwan into the World Trade Organization. To open even more markets to American products, I have urged the Senate to grant me the trade promotion

authority I need to create jobs and greater opportunities for U.S. workers and farmers.

An integral part of our commitment to free trade is our commitment to enforcing trade laws to make sure that America's industries and workers compete on a level playing field. Free trade should not mean lax enforcement. Consistent with this commitment, last June I launched a three-part initiative designed to restore market forces to world steel markets. This initiative includes international discussion to encourage the reduction of excess global steel capacity and negotiations to eliminate market-distorting subsidies that led to the current glut of capacity. I also called upon the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) to investigate the impact of imports on the U.S. steel industry under section 201 of the 1974 Trade Act. The ITC subsequently found that increased steel imports are a substantial cause of serious injury to our domestic industry.

Today I am announcing my decision to impose temporary safeguards to help give America's steel industry and its workers the chance to adapt to the large influx of foreign steel. This relief will help steelworkers, communities that depend on steel, and the steel industry adjust without harming our economy.

These safeguards are expressly sanctioned by the rules of the World Trade Organization, which recognizes that sometimes imports can cause such serious harm to domestic industries that temporary restraints are warranted. This is one of those times.

I take this action to give our domestic steel industry an opportunity to adjust to

surges in foreign imports, recognizing the harm from 50 years of foreign government intervention in the global steel market, which has resulted in bankruptcies, serious dislocation, and job loss. We also must continue to urge our trading partners to eliminate global inefficient excess capacity and market-distorting practices, such as subsidies.

The U.S. steel industry must use the temporary help today's action provides to restructure and ensure its long-term competitiveness. Restructuring will impact workers and the communities in which they live, and we must help hard-working Americans adapt to changing economic circumstances. I have proposed a major expansion of the National Emergency Grants program to assist workers affected by restructuring with effective job training and assistance. I have also proposed direct assistance with health insurance costs that will be available to workers and retirees who lose their employer-provided coverage. And I support coordinated assistance for communities and a strengthened and expanded Trade Adjustment Assistance program. America's workers are the most highly skilled in the world, and with effective training and adjustment assistance we will help them find better, higher paying jobs to support their families and boost our economy.

NOTE: The proclamation and memorandum of March 5 regarding imports of certain steel products are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Documents Describing the
Safeguard Action on Imports of Certain Steel Products
March 5, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 203(b) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “Act”), I hereby transmit documents to the Congress that describe the safeguard action that I have proclaimed on imports of certain steel products, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 203(a)(1) of the

Act and as President of the United States, and the reasons for taking that action.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
March 5, 2002.

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Remarks During a Meeting With Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr., and an
Exchange With Reporters
March 6, 2002

The President. I nominated a very good man from Mississippi named Charles Pickering to the appellate bench, and I expect him to be confirmed by the United States Senate. I think the country is tired of people playing politics all the time in Washington. And I believe that they’re holding this man’s nomination up for political purposes. It’s not fair, and it’s not right.

And a lot of people in Mississippi agree with me. Republicans agree with me, but so do a lot of good Democrats, starting with the attorney general of the State of Mississippi. He is here to lend his support for Charles Pickering. As well, the former Governor, Governor Winter, has expressed concern about a process that would malign a man such as him and expects him to be confirmed. Frank Hunger feels the same way. These are people in Mississippi who know the man for what he is, a man who respects the rights of all citizens and a man who not only respects the rights of all citizens, who has acted on that strong belief,

a man who’s a fine jurist, a man of quality and integrity.

And I hope the Senate stops playing politics. This is not good for the Senate, and it’s not good for the country. They’ve got to get him on the floor and get him a vote and get him in. He’ll do a fine job.

Judge Pickering’s Nomination

Q. Can we ask you a couple questions about his nomination, sir?

The President. Go ahead.

Q. Do you agree with your Press Secretary that if the judge’s writings and actions of 30—20, 30, 40 years ago should come into play, then so should the civil rights record of some of the very Senators of 30, 40 years ago? And is that a threat?

The President. Here’s what I believe: I believe this man should be confirmed. I know him. I’ve known him for a long time, but more importantly, people from Mississippi have known him. Democrats and Republicans know him. And he needs to